

Abbreviations for invertebrate virus species names

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Plant virologists have taken the initiative in the development of a standardized system of abbreviation of virus names in response to the particular problems associated with the naming of plant viruses [1–3]. There is now a compelling case for extending these efforts to embrace all viruses irrespective of their host organisms. Increasing awareness of the diversity of viruses and greater reliance on storage of information in electronic databases call for standardization of abbreviations to avoid ambiguity. The accurate recovery of information from databases is dependent on the existence of unique abbreviations for virus names, since virus names may often only be registered in abbreviated form. In order to encourage the standardization of abbreviations beyond the plant viruses, we have recently compiled a list of the abbreviations of the vertebrate virus species names recommended by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) and contained in its Seventh Report [4]. This list of recommended abbreviations for vertebrate virus species names is intended as a reference document to diminish the risk of duplication when new abbreviations are proposed. It is our aim to extend this process of standardization of abbreviations to include all virus species names approved by the ICTV. We now provide a list of abbreviations of invertebrate virus species names. Table 1 includes all the ICTV recommended abbreviations of approved invertebrate virus species names, arranged according to genome type and family. The abbreviations listed in Table 1 are limited to the names of ratified virus species. The names of tentative species, serotypes, strains and other categories have been excluded. The immediate aim is to devise a catalogue of unique abbreviations for virus species. Some ambiguity can be tolerated in the assignment of abbreviations to categories below the species level, provided that these abbreviations do not conflict with abbreviations assigned to species. The list in Table 1 is presented as a starting point for the progressive development of a system of unambiguous abbreviations of the names of invertebrate virus species.

There are now some 4,000 virus names listed by the ICTV and without some conventions it will become increasingly difficult to devise unique abbreviations for every virus. Although the ICTV is responsible for controlling, approving and recording the names of virus taxa and has a formal International Code [5] that guides this activity, it has no constitutional responsibility for assigning abbreviations. Nonetheless it does assign a recommended abbreviation for every virus name. It is obviously a desirable aim that a standard abbreviation should be used for any particular virus in all publications.

Table 1. Invertebrate virus species name abbreviation index

Invertebrate virus species names listed in the 7th Report of the ICTV [6] with their recommended abbreviation, are arranged by genome type and by family in alphabetical order. Strain, serotype, genotype, clade or isolate names, and virus names with no assigned abbreviation, have been omitted

Virus species name	Abbreviation	Family	Genus
Double-stranded DNA Viruses			
<i>Anomala cuprea entomopoxvirus</i>	(ACEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Aphodius tasmaniae entomopoxvirus</i>	(ATEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Demodema boranensis entomopoxvirus</i>	(DBEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Dermolepida albohirtum entomopoxvirus</i>	(DAEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Figulus subleavis entomopoxvirus</i>	(FSEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Geotrupes sylvaticus entomopoxvirus</i>	(GSEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Melolontha melolontha entomopoxvirus</i>	(MMEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus A</i>
<i>Amsacta moorei entomopoxvirus</i>	(AMEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Acrobasis zelleri entomopoxvirus</i>	(AZEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Arphia conspersa entomopoxvirus</i> *	(ACOEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Choristoneura biennis entomopoxvirus</i>	(CBEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Choristoneura conflicta entomopoxvirus</i>	(CCEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Choristoneura diversuma entomopoxvirus</i>	(CDEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Choristoneura fumiferana entomopoxvirus</i> *	(CFEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Chorizagrotis auxiliars entomopoxvirus</i>	(CXEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Heliothis armigera entomopoxvirus</i>	(HAVE)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Locusta migratoria entomopoxvirus</i>	(LMEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Melanoplus sanguinipes entomopoxvirus</i>	(MSEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Oedaleus senigalensis entomopoxvirus</i>	(OSEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Operophtera brumata entomopoxvirus</i>	(OBEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Schistocera gregaria entomopoxvirus</i>	(SGEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus B</i>
<i>Aedes aegypti entomopoxvirus</i>	(AAEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Camptochironomus tentans entomopoxvirus</i>	(CTEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Chironomus attenuatus entomopoxvirus</i>	(CAEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Chironomus luridus entomopoxvirus</i>	(CLEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Chironomus plumosus entomopoxvirus</i>	(CPEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Goeldichironomus haloprasimus entomopoxvirus</i>	(GHEV)	<i>Poxviridae</i>	<i>Entomopoxvirus C</i>
<i>Invertebrate iridescent virus 1</i>	(IIV-1)	<i>Iridoviridae</i>	<i>Iridovirus</i>
<i>Invertebrate iridescent virus 6</i>	(IIV-6)	<i>Iridoviridae</i>	<i>Iridovirus</i>
<i>Invertebrate iridescent virus 3</i>	(IIV-3)	<i>Iridoviridae</i>	<i>Chloriridovirus</i>
<i>Anticarsia gemmatalis multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(AgMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Autographa californica multiple nucleopolyherovirus</i>	(AcMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Bombyx mori multiple nucleopolyherovirus</i>	(BmNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Choristoneura fumiferana multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(CfMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Helicoverpa zea single nucleopolyherovirus</i>	(HzSNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>

Continued

Table 1 (continued)

Virus species name	Abbreviation	Family	Genus
Double-stranded DNA Viruses			
<i>Lymantria dispar multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(LdMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Mamestra brassicae multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(MbMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Neodiprion sertifer nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(NeseNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Orgyia pseudotsugata multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(OpMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Spodoptera exigua multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(SeMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(SfMNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Trichoplusia ni single nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>	(TnSNPV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Nucleopolyhedrovirus</i>
<i>Artogeia rapae granulovirus</i>	(ArGV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Granulovirus</i>
<i>Cydia pomonella granulovirus</i>	(CPGV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Granulovirus</i>
<i>Plodia interpunctella granulovirus</i>	(PiGV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Granulovirus</i>
<i>Trichoplusia ni granulovirus</i>	(TnGV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Granulovirus</i>
<i>Xestia c-nigrum granulovirus</i>	(XecnGV)	<i>Baculoviridae</i>	<i>Granulovirus</i>
<i>Campoletis aprilis ichnovirus</i>	(CaIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Campoletis flavicincta ichnovirus</i>	(CfIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Campoletis sonorensis ichnovirus</i>	(CsIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Casinarina arjuna ichnovirus</i>	(CarIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Casinarina forcipata ichnovirus</i>	(CfoIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Casinarina infesta ichnovirus</i>	(CiIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Diadegma acronymyctae ichnovirus</i>	(DaIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Diadegma interruptum ichnovirus</i>	(DiIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Diadegma terebrans ichnovirus</i>	(DtIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Eriborus terebrans ichnovirus</i>	(EtIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Enytus montanus ichnovirus</i>	(EmIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Glypta fumiferanae ichnovirus</i>	(GfIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter annulipes ichnovirus</i>	(HaIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter exiguae ichnovirus</i>	(HeIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter fugitivus ichnovirus</i>	(HfIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter lymantriae ichnovirus</i>	(HlIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter pilosulus ichnovirus</i>	(HpIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Hyposoter rivalis ichnovirus</i>	(HrIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Olesicampe benefactor ichnovirus</i>	(ObIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Olesicampe geniculatae ichnovirus</i>	(OgIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Synetaeris tenuifemur ichnovirus</i>	(StIV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Ichnovirus</i>
<i>Apanteles crassicornis bracovirus</i>	(AcBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Apanteles fumiferanae bracovirus</i>	(AfBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Ascogaster argentifrons bracovirus</i>	(AaBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Ascogaster quadridentata bracovirus</i>	(AqBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cardiochiles nigriceps bracovirus</i>	(CnBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Chelonus altitudinis bracovirus</i>	(CalBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>

Continued

Table 1 (continued)

Virus species name	Abbreviation	Family	Genus
Double-stranded DNA Viruses			
<i>Chelonus blackburni bracovirus</i>	(CbBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Chelonus nr. curvamaculatus bracovirus</i>	(CcBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Chelonus inanitus bracovirus</i>	(CinaBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Chelonus insularis bracovirus</i>	(CinsBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Chelonus texanus bracovirus</i>	(CtBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia congregata bracovirus</i>	(CcBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia flavipes bracovirus</i>	(CfBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia glomerata bracovirus</i>	(CgBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia hyphantriae bracovirus</i>	(ChBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia kariyai bracovirus</i>	(CkBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia marginiventris bracovirus</i>	(CmaBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia melanoscela bracovirus</i>	(CmeBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia rubecula bracovirus</i>	(CrBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Cotesia schaeferi bracovirus</i>	(CsBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Diolcogaster facetosa bracovirus</i>	(DfBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Glyptapanteles flavicoxis bracovirus</i>	(GflBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Glyptapanteles indiensis bracovirus</i>	(GiBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Glyptapanteles liparidis bracovirus</i>	(GIBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Hypomicrogaster canadensis bracovirus</i>	(HcBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Hypomicrogaster ectdytolophae bracovirus</i>	(HcEV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Microplitis croceipes bracovirus</i>	(McBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Microplitis demolitor bracovirus</i>	(MdBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Phanerotoma flavitestacea bracovirus</i>	(Pfbv)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Pholetesor ornigis bracovirus</i>	(PoBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Protapanteles paleacritae bracovirus</i>	(PpBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Tranosema rostrale bracovirus</i>	(PrBV)	<i>Polydnaviridae</i>	<i>Bracovirus</i>
<i>Diadromus pulchellus ascovirus 1a</i>	(DpAV-1a)	<i>Ascoviridae</i>	<i>Ascovirus</i>
<i>Heliothis virescens ascovirus 1a</i>	(HvAV-1a)	<i>Ascoviridae</i>	<i>Ascovirus</i>
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda ascovirus 1a</i>	(SfAV-1a)	<i>Ascoviridae</i>	<i>Ascovirus</i>
<i>Trichoplusia ni ascovirus 1a</i>	(TnAV-1a)	<i>Ascoviridae</i>	<i>Ascovirus</i>
Single-stranded DNA Viruses			
<i>Galleria mellonella densovirus</i>	(GmDNV)	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	<i>Densovirus</i>
<i>Junonia coenia densovirus</i>	(JcDNV)	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	<i>Densovirus</i>
<i>Bombyx mori densovirus</i>	(BmDNV)	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	<i>Densovirus</i>
<i>Aedes aegypti densovirus</i>	(AaDNV)	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	<i>Densovirus</i>
<i>Aedes albopictus densovirus</i>	(AlDNV)	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	<i>Densovirus</i>
Reverse Transcribing DNA and RNA Viruses			
<i>Drosophila melanogaster 1731 virus</i>	(Dme1731V)	<i>Pseudoviridae</i>	<i>Hemivirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster copia virus</i>	(DmeCopV)	<i>Pseudoviridae</i>	<i>Hemivirus</i>
<i>Bombyx mori mag virus</i>	(BmoMagV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Metavirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster 412 virus</i>	(Dme412V)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Metavirus</i>

Continued

Table 1 (continued)

Virus species name	Abbreviation	Family	Genus
Reverse Transcribing DNA and RNA Viruses			
<i>Drosophila melanogaster mdg1 virus</i>	(DmeMdg1V)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Metavirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster micropia virus</i>	(DmeMicV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Metavirus</i>
<i>Drosophila virilis Ulysses virus</i>	(DviUllV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Metavirus</i>
<i>Drosophila ananassae Tom virus</i>	(DanTomV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Errantivirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster 17.6 virus</i>	(Dme176V)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Errantivirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster 297 virus</i>	(Dme297V)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Errantivirus</i>
<i>Drosophila melanogaster gypsy virus</i>	(DmeGypV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Errantivirus</i>
<i>Trichoplusia ni TED virus</i>	(TniTedV)	<i>Metaviridae</i>	<i>Errantivirus</i>
Double-stranded RNA Viruses			
<i>Cypovirus 1</i>	(CPV-1)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 2</i>	(CPV-2)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 3</i>	(CPV-3)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 4</i>	(CPV-4)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 5</i>	(CPV-5)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 6</i>	(CPV-6)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 7</i>	(CPV-7)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 8</i>	(CPV-8)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 9</i>	(CPV-9)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 10</i>	(CPV-10)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 11</i>	(CPV-11)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 12</i>	(CPV-12)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 13</i>	(CPV-13)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Cypovirus 14</i>	(CPV-14)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Cypovirus</i>
<i>Nilaparvata lugens reovirus</i>	(NLRV)	<i>Reoviridae</i>	<i>Fijivirus</i>
<i>Drosophila X virus</i>	(DXV)	<i>Birnaviridae</i>	<i>Entomobirnavirus</i>
Positive Sense Single-stranded RNA Viruses			
<i>Cricket paralysis virus</i>	(CrPV)	–	“CrPV-like viruses”
<i>Drosophila C virus</i>	(DCV)	–	“CrPV-like viruses”
<i>Himetobi P virus</i>	(HiPV)	–	“CrPV-like viruses”
<i>Plautia stali intestine virus</i>	(PSIV)	–	“CrPV-like viruses”
<i>Rhopalosiphum padi virus</i>	(RhPV)	–	“CrPV-like viruses”
<i>Black beetle virus</i>	(BBV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Boolarra virus</i>	(BoV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax encephalitis virus</i>	(DIEV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Flock house virus</i>	(FHV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Gypsy moth virus</i>	(GMV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Lates calcarifer encephalitis virus</i>	(LcEV)	<i>Nodaviridae</i>	<i>Alphanodavirus</i>
<i>Calliteara pudibunda virus</i>	(CpV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>

Continued

Table 1 (continued)

Virus species name	Abbreviation	Family	Genus
Positive Sense Single-stranded RNA Viruses			
<i>Darna trima virus</i>	(DtV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Nudaurelia capensis β virus</i>	(NβV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Philosamia cynthia x ricini virus</i>	(PxV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Pseudoplusia includens virus</i>	(PiV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Setothosea asigna virus</i>	(SaV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Trichoplusia ni virus</i>	(TnV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Betatetravirus</i>
<i>Nudaurelia capensis ω virus</i>	(NωV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Omegetetravirus</i>
<i>Helicoverpa armigera stunt virus</i>	(HaSV)	<i>Tetraviridae</i>	<i>Omegetetravirus</i>

Three of the four principles governing the assignment of abbreviations to plant viruses [1–3] are also applicable to viruses infecting other organisms. These principles are the following:

1. that abbreviations should be the simplest possible;
2. that an abbreviation must not duplicate any other previously coined and still in current usage;
3. that the word “virus” in a name is abbreviated as “V”.

Plant virologists have compiled guidelines [3] indicating how the abbreviations used in the 7th ICTV Report [6] were derived, and advising how virologists should proceed when creating new abbreviations. Several of the guidelines refer to the specific pathogenic effects of plant viruses on their hosts, but the following have applicability to other viruses:

1. Abbreviations that use the same letters, but differ only by the case used (upper or lower) should be avoided;
2. abbreviations for single words should not normally exceed 2 letters;
3. secondary letters in abbreviations are omitted when their use would make the abbreviation excessively long, exceeding 5 letters;
4. abbreviations in current and widespread usage are retained except where their use could cause confusion. (It is accepted nonetheless that some abbreviations are unlikely ever to be changed.)

We believe that publication of these lists will increase awareness of the need for the adoption of a uniform system of abbreviations of virus species names throughout the whole of virology, and will help to prevent the duplication of abbreviations which is a source of confusion in the case of some vertebrate viruses [4].

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